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Subject: FEC Comment
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FEC Comment Submission (johnedwards.com)

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Comment: I am writing to comment on Draft Advisory Opinion 2007-31. I urge the Commission to reject Draft AO 2007-31, and permit individual credit card contributions made online through ActBlue to be matched under the Matching Fund Act.

I have, in fact, donated to several candidates through ActBlue. At the time of making those donations, there was ALSO an option to make a contribution TO ActBlue ... and several times I have taken that opportunity.

My understanding has been, and I think that it is entirely reasonable, that my donation through ActBlue TO John Edwards or any other candidate is a way to contribute to that candidate, offering the opportunities for online donation settlement to grass-roots campaigns that has long been available to higher profile, better funded campaigns.

That is entirely distinct from my contributions TO ActBlue, which are not paid out to candidates, but which is, instead, invested in the infrastructure for providing this online settlement service to grass roots candidates.

As a supporter of public financing, I believe the Commission should be removing obstacles for presidential candidates to participate in the matching funds system. The Commission should be embracing new technologies and grassroots financing of presidential campaigns. Draft AO 2007-31, on the other hand, would have the Commission erect new barriers to participation in matching funds.

I understand that individuals' contributions through a presidential candidate's web site are readily matchable. There is no clear reason why an online contribution through ActBlue be any less matchable? The draft advisory opinion barely addresses this question, much less provides an answer, and it should therefore be rejected by the Commission.

Thank you,

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